



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.*

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January 24, 2008

Ms. Laura Ripley, SR-6J  
U.S. EPA Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Ripley:

Re: Rensselaer Wellfield  
Rensselaer, Jasper County  
Pre-CERCLIS Screening

### SITE SUMMARY

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA conducted a Pre-CERCLIS Screening (PCS) of the Rensselaer Wellfield site to determine if the site warrants further investigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, a.k.a. Superfund).

The Rensselaer Wellfield supplies water for the municipality of Rensselaer (population of approximately 6,263). Well #2 is located on the western edge of the town. The municipality's other wells are located further west of town.

The IDEM Office of Water Quality's Drinking Water Branch notified the Site Investigation Program of levels of Trichloroethylene (TCE) exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in Rensselaer's finished water. Beginning in July 2007, Rensselaer has reported to IDEM Trichloroethylene in their blended, finished water at levels of 5.3, 5.2 and 6.61 ppb (the MCL is 5.0 ppb). Additionally, a sample was taken by the municipality directly from Well #2 (unblended) in which TCE was detected at 45.94 ppb. Other contaminants that have been detected below their respective MCLs include tetrachloroethylene, trans-1,2-dichloroethane, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene. Due to the type of contaminants and the proximity to the well, the most likely sources of the contamination are the Donnelly Textile Service dry cleaning facility just north of Well #2 and/or the former Peerless and Superior Cleaners facility located directly across the street to the northeast of Well #2 (the Peerless facility moved across the street and changed its name to Donnelly in the early 1990's; both facilities

are/were owned by the same individual) and a former furniture stripping business that was located across the street from Well #2 in the late 1990's through the early 2000's.

The IDEM State Cleanup Section is currently working with the owner of Donnielly Textile Services to initiate a cleanup response. At this time, since there is an Other Cleanup Authority (OCA) involved, the Site Investigation Section will not conduct a further investigation unless a resolution cannot be arranged with the owner of that facility. IDEM recommends that this site be entered into CERCLIS with an OCA designation.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this correspondence, please contact me at 317/234-3505.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Chesterson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Chesterson  
Site Investigation Program  
Office of Land Quality

DPC/sb